



GOOD AIR DAY

After a long time, city records air quality index of below 50, the best AQI category possible, following a spell of rain

PAGE 2



GOON GUARD DUTY

Anti-rowdy squads to keep check on all illegal activities as police actively monitor over 6,200 known offenders in city

PAGE 3

Stray animals having field day munching on saplings planted and nurtured by civic activists and volunteers as most lakes in city have either damaged fences or no fence at all

CATTLE CUT LOOSE IN THEIR CHOMPING GROUND

Funds received for maintenance will be used to fix fences, officials say

I Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengalureans were all enthusiastic in various green activities this World Environment Day, participating in events such as planting saplings -- thousands of saplings were planted at vacant places and lake bunds this year. Volunteers, lake activists and environmentalists came together for this initiative and some of them are planning to water the saplings. But, not many of them are sure that the saplings have a chance of survival as most of these bunds lack fences and so stray cattle are making this their grazing ground.

Activists have been complaining to the lake engineers about the absence of fences or broken and damaged fences but the authorities concerned, as usual, continue to delay ensuring fences around water bodies due to the reasons best known to them.

KN Guruprasad, a resident of TC Palya, is a volunteer who has been visiting Vengai Lake to take care of the saplings.

"It is shocking to see stray cattle in the lake area. These stray cattle are either eating or damaging the saplings. We spend a lot of time watering and nurturing these

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>



Stray cattle not only damage saplings planted on Annaswamy Mudaliar Road, but also create nuisance and also block the pathway for pedestrians

—Purushotham, citizen

Like ants at a picnic

Asian weaver ants are doing well in a city that is bursting at its seams, researchers find



I Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

While Bengaluru continues to undergo rapid urbanisation, some of its ants' population appears to be alive and kicking.

Researchers from Bangalore University looked at the genetic variation of Asian Weaver ants in Bengaluru to analyse the diversity of this insect. They say the city has a moderately healthy population of Asian weaver ants.

"We looked at genetic variation in Asian Weaver ants in Bengaluru and across Karnataka. Bengaluru's ants were found to have moderate genetic variation despite a high urbanisation rate. This implies that this particular species is in good health and thus can adapt to a new environment, survive climate change impacts, and is thriving," said Somashekara Rajashekara from the Centre for Applied Genetics, Department of Studies in Zoology, Bangalore University, Jnana Bharathi Campus.

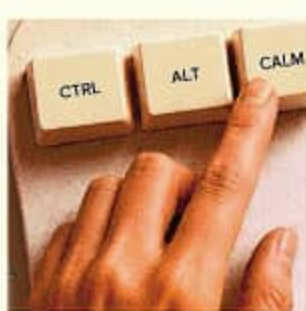
Experts say the Asian Weaver ant is an important organism mainly found in agricultural, forest, and urban ecosystems. They act as biological pest control in nature and are responsible for managing the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Calming the mind

Recharge Room is hosting CTRL + ALT + CALM, a guided group therapy session aimed at helping participants understand anxiety and create healthier emotional balance through guided conversations, reflective exercises and more.
Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar;
When: June 13, 11 am



02 Spectacle on stage

Shurpanakhi, an experimental theatre production weaves together Odissi dance, theatre and Yakshagana to reimagine Shurpanakhi not as a demoness, but as a woman, exploring her story through movement and



emotions.
Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar;
When: June 21, 3.30 pm, 7.30 pm

03 Crafted with love

Indian Artisans Bazaar, organised by Grand Flea Market, brings together talented artisans and entrepreneurs showcasing unique handmade products, traditional crafts, ethnic wear, home décor items, jewellery and lifestyle products.
Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath;
When: Until June 14



04 Joke's on you

Main Shayar Toh Nah is Manhar Seth's heart-touching and hilarious blend of comedy and poetry that takes the audience on an unforgettable journey through love, heartbreak, nostalgia and self-discovery.
Where: The Comedy Theatre; Indiranagar
When: June 9, 8 pm



05 For the fur babies

Pet Circle is a vibrant two-day celebration bringing interactive experiences, shopping, entertainment, community moments and leading pet brands under one roof for pet parents and their furry companions.



Where: Nexus Vega City Mall;
When: June 20, 21, 10.30 am

Rains bring respite from heat, pollution

City records improvement in air quality following recent rains, with average PM2.5 and PM10 levels dropping as dust and other pollutants get washed down

I Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The pre-monsoon showers in Bengaluru have not only brought much-needed relief from sweltering heat but have also given Bengalureans a breath of fresh air.

On Monday, in a long time, the city recorded an air quality index of below 50, the best AQI category possible. According to the Central Pollution Control Board's daily air quality report, Bengaluru's AQI was hovering around 48.

Other open-source air quality monitoring platforms also highlighted this drop in pollution level. AQI.IN showed that the average levels of particulate matter 2.5 and 10 were as low as 7µg/m³ and 11µg/m³, respectively.

Levels of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide have also gone down considerably over the last couple of weeks.

"An AQI below 50 implies that Bengaluru's air quality is good and healthy. Although this is not unusual during the rainy season. The primary air pollutant for Bengaluru is PM10, which is from dust particles. However, dust along with other pollutants gets washed down by rain, making the air cleaner," said an air quality expert.

Experts say that while pre-monsoon showers have already purified the air to a large extent, heavy rains expected during the monsoon are expected to improve the air quality further.

According to the Indian Me-



Monsoon rains are expected to improve city's air quality further

Experts say vehicular emission and pollution in Bengaluru are comparable to other major metropolitan cities but its unique geography and prevailing wind patterns help disperse pollutants, resulting in relatively better air quality

eteorological Department (IMD), the southwest monsoon officially entered Karnataka on June 5 and was likely to reach the capital city by June 9. IMD forecast for Bengaluru includes light to moderate rain with a sustained wind speed of 30-40 kilometres per hour, which is likely to occur at many places over Bengaluru rural and urban districts.

Given Bengaluru's geographical location and meteorological factors, the city can improve its AQI even during summer and

on non-rainy days, experts say.

The main source of primary air pollutant, PM10, in Bengaluru is windblown dust, either due to bad road conditions or from construction sites and vehicles ferrying construction material. End-to-end scaffolding using paver blocks is a solution to bring down the level of PM10 in the air even during the non-monsoon period.

According to the experts, vehicular emissions and dust pollution in Bengaluru are com-

parable to those in other major metropolitan cities in India. However, the city's unique geography and prevailing wind patterns help disperse a significant portion of these pollutants, resulting in relatively better air quality than many other metros.

"Despite this advantage, Bengaluru's Air Quality Index (AQI) often enters the 'moderate' category during the summer months, with levels exceeding 150. Improving air quality during non-rainy days will require targeted measures such as paving road shoulders to reduce dust generation and strictly enforcing regulations governing construction sites and the transportation of construction materials," the expert added.

VK Education Fair 2026 to be held on June 11 and 12

Here's all you need to know about your one-stop destination for college and career guidance

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tional institutions under one roof.

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Experts and representatives from reputed institutions will be available to provide guidance on course selection, career prospects, admissions, fee structures, scholarships and future opportunities.

Meet 35+ leading educational institutions

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educational institutions from across Karnataka will participate in the fair, offering information on a wide range of undergraduate and professional programmes.

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ties and make informed academic choices. Mark your calendar for June 11 and 12 and take the next step towards building a successful future.

-BMB

Rowdies can't run: Bengaluru's new crime-busting squads strike

City unleashes special anti-rowdy squads as police intensify operations against gangs, extortion networks, repeat offenders and rising criminal influence

Sridhar Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

With Bengaluru accounting for more than one-third of Karnataka's registered rowdy-sheets and police actively monitoring over 6,200 known offenders, the city has emerged as the focal point of the state's latest crackdown on organised crime. Against this backdrop, police have directed the formation of dedicated Anti-Rowdy Squads across police stations and police ranges, including Bengaluru, to curb gang activity, extortion, intimidation and other illegal activities that continue to pose a threat to public safety.

The decision follows a directive from Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who ordered the formation of such squads during a recent meeting with top officials. Following this, Director General and Inspector General of Police Dr MA Saleem issued the order calling for a zero-tolerance approach towards rowdism. Special squads headed by police inspectors will track emerging gangs, monitor habitual offenders, gather intelligence and initiate action under stringent laws, including the Goonda Act and the Karnataka Control of Organised Crime Act (KCOCA).

The numbers underline why Bengaluru remains a priority. Police records show that more than 6,200 rowdy elements are currently under active surveillance in the city. In a recent city-wide verification exercise, authorities traced hundreds of history-sheets who had slipped off the radar by shifting residence or attempting to evade police monitoring. At the same time, police



Authorities intensify enforcement following organised offender monitoring initiative, expanding inspector-led units, applying stringent legislation, addressing social media-fuelled violence and growing fears over public security

reviewed old records and closed more than 1,100 inactive rowdy sheets after verifying that the individuals concerned had reformed and were no longer involved in criminal activity.

The crackdown has intensified this year. In just the first four months, police externed dozens of notorious rowdy-sheets from Bengaluru city limits and invoked KCOCA provisions against more than 90 individuals linked to organised criminal activity. Police also executed dozens of non-bailable warrants

and used preventive detention laws against repeat offenders accused of violating bail conditions or continuing criminal operations.

A senior police official said, "At the police station level, officers have conducted large-scale verification drives, physically checking thousands of known rowdy-sheets at their residences. These inspections aim to monitor their movements, confirm employment details and ensure compliance with court-imposed restrictions." Officials believe the

strategy can help prevent crimes before they occur rather than merely responding after incidents take place.

The formation of the squads also comes at a time when police are grappling with worrying social trends. Recent NCRB data flagged a 133 per cent increase in juvenile offences in Bengaluru, a rise that senior police officers have linked partly to the growing glorification of gang culture and violent behaviour on social media platforms. Authorities fear that the visibility of rowdy culture online is influencing younger individuals and normalising criminal behaviour.

Police have also widened their focus beyond traditional gang activity. Road-rage incidents, deliberate accidents and attempts to intimidate motorists for money are increasingly being treated as serious offences. Officials warn that habitual offenders involved in such acts could find themselves under rowdy-sheet surveillance.

Residents have welcomed the move but say success will depend on consistent enforcement. "When the city has more than 6,000 active rowdies under watch, it shows the scale of the challenge. People want visible policing and swift action," said Jaya Kumar, a resident of Jayanagar. Nandan Gowda, a resident from Yelahanka, added, "The statistics are alarming. The squads must not become a paperwork exercise. People want safer neighbourhoods and fewer repeat offenders on the streets."

With police units instructed to establish Anti-Rowdy Squads within a week, Bengaluru's residents will be watching closely to see whether the initiative translates into lasting action on the ground.

Ganja seized at airport

Bengaluru Customs officials seized 5 kg of hydroponic ganja valued at 1.75 crore on June 7. Officials said the passenger had arrived from Bangkok and had allegedly concealed the narcotic substance in his checked baggage.

Following the seizure, Customs authorities arrested the accused under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. —BMB

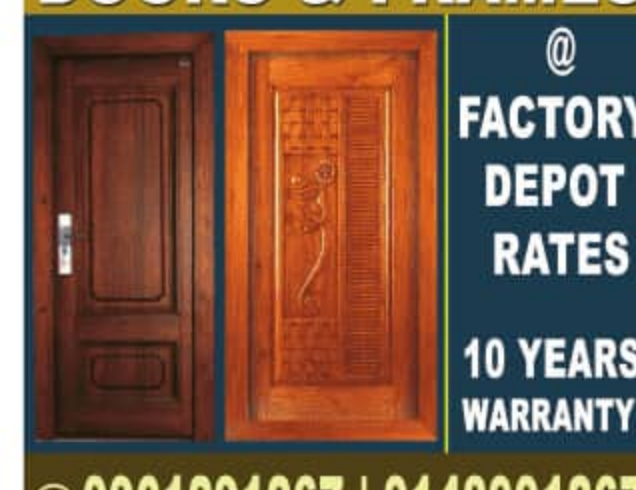
Masked men invade gated community

In a shocking incident caught on camera, a group of masked men allegedly cut through the perimeter fence of a luxury gated villa community. The video has gained traction on social media and prompted a police inquiry.

According to reports, the family was asleep when the group entered the premises. The suspects allegedly took advantage of a non-functional security alarm and are believed to have been fully equipped and operating according to a pre-meditated plan.

Law enforcement authorities have been notified, and an FIR has been lodged in connection with the incident. —BMB

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Rusted machines drag down Coles Park gym experience

Damaged equipment and limited machine availability are affecting workouts, with users demanding cleaner, safer and better-maintained exercise facilities

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Women who regularly use the outdoor gym at Coles Park have raised concerns over the poor condition of fitness equipment, inadequate facilities, and lack of maintenance, urging civic authorities to take immediate action.

The women's gym area within popular Coles Park attracts a large number of users every morning. However, residents say several machines have become rusted, damaged, and difficult to use due to years of wear and insufficient upkeep. Some equipment produces loud noises during use, while others have become stiff and require repairs.

Regular users have also pointed to hygiene concerns. Since the gym area is open, bird droppings frequently fall on the machines, making them dirty and unpleasant to use.

Pushpa Srinidhi, a regular visitor to the women's gym, said the facility has immense potential but requires urgent attention.

"I am a regular user of the Women's Gym at Coles Park. Bird droppings often make the machines dirty and unhygienic. Several machines are noisy and require maintenance, while some are damaged and need repair. Authorities must address these issues and improve the



Rusted and damaged machines continue affecting workouts at popular outdoor gym



"I am a regular user of the Women's Gym at Coles Park. Bird droppings often make the machines dirty and unhygienic. Several machines are noisy and require maintenance, while some are damaged and need repair"

—Pushpa Srinidhi, park visitor

facilities for women who use the gym every day," she said.

Another resident, Rajani Mahesh, noted that the number of women using the gym has increased significantly over the years, but the available infrastructure has not kept pace with demand.

"Many women use the gym daily, and there are not enough machines for everyone. Several of the existing machines are damaged or need

maintenance. Authorities must install new equipment and increase the number of machines so that more women can benefit from the facility," she said.

Residents also highlighted concerns regarding the green privacy net installed around the gym area. According to users, the net was put up to provide privacy and comfort for women exercising in the open.

Women users are requesting that

the net be restored and maintained. They have also suggested installing a roof covering or protective structure above the gym area to prevent bird droppings from falling on the equipment and improve hygiene.

Despite heavy daily footfall at Coles Park, users say maintenance of the women's gym remains inadequate.

Residents are now calling on the authorities to repair damaged equipment, install additional machines, improve cleanliness, and restore the privacy net to ensure a safer and more comfortable exercise space for women. Users say timely intervention will improve safety, comfort, hygiene, and accessibility for all users.

Swachhata drive transforms neglected Silk Board stretch

More than 100 volunteers joined civic authorities to clear garbage and revive neglected under-flyover space for safer pedestrian movement

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Over 100 citizen volunteers, sanitation workers and Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) officers armed with brooms, rakes and paint launched a full-scale Swachhata attack on the area below Silk Board Flyover — one of the filthiest and most neglected spaces in the city — on Sunday.

Within a few hours, the entire place was cleaned and spruced up, marking the beginning of a long journey towards reclaiming this public space.

The junction serves as Bengaluru's southern gateway and the entrance to the IT corridor from Silk Board to KR Puram. One of the city's busiest intersections, it remains poorly designed for thousands of pedestri-

ans who navigate fast-moving traffic, open drains, garbage piles, poor lighting and ongoing Metro construction daily.

At the heart of the junction lies a vast unused area under the flyover that has become a hub for illegal activities, garbage dumping, debris accumulation and open urination.

"This is not about beautification or cleanup photo-ops, it is about partnering with the government to make real change on the ground and reclaim our city's public spaces"

—Arun Pai, GBA Brand Ambassador for Swachh Bengaluru



Garbage, debris and years of dust removed during massive cleanup drive

Efforts have begun to reclaim the space and transform it into a pedestrian-first, safe and family-friendly public area, improving safety and aesthetics. With CSR support from CGI India, more than 100 company volunteers joined BSCC officers and sanitation staff in the transformation effort. Arun Pai, GBA Brand Ambassador for Swachh Bengaluru, was part of the action and said: "We need to act now and reclaim these large filthy under-utilised and misused public spaces and repurpose them for pedestrian use. This is not about beautification or cleanup photo-ops, it is about partnering with the government to make real change on

the ground and reclaim our city's public spaces. Safe, walkable pedestrian-friendly spaces are the need of the hour, especially at busy junctions like Silk Board, and I am optimistic that change is coming. A video of the work that I posted on Instagram clocked over 1 lakh views in 12 hours, which shows how much the public really cares about Silk Board, and craves for improvement".

BSCC Chief Engineer KV Ravi said there is a lot to do to develop the place for public use. "We, in association with ArunPai and a few contractors, have decided to construct a footpath for the benefit of pedestrians", said the BSCC Chief Engineer.

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Drain hazard
Hoysala Nagar



A damaged drain slab near an apartment in Hoysala Nagar has remained unrepaired for six months, causing overflow during rains and disrupting movement for pedestrians and two-wheeler riders.

Garbage menace
Margondanahalli



Persistent dumping of waste near Bhakta Maruthi Layout off Margondanahalli Main Road continues to create unhygienic conditions despite repeated complaints from local residents.

Pothole peril
Bannerghatta



A pothole-ridden stretch on Bannerghatta Main Road near a hospital and IIM needs urgent repairs, with monsoon conditions increasing risks of accidents and traffic disruptions.

Kodagu assault probe deepens amid arrest challenge

The Karnataka High Court on Monday directed the State government to place the complete investigation records before it in a case linked to the alleged sexual assault of an American tourist at a homestay in Kodagu district.

The matter came up before Justice M Nagaprasanna during the hearing of a petition filed by homestay owner Palecanda Ponnappa, who challenged the criminal proceedings initiated against him and questioned the legality of his arrest.

Ponnappa was accused of suppressing information relating to the alleged incident. Although he was arrested in April, he was later released on

bail. The Court declined to grant immediate protection from the ongoing criminal proceedings.

Justice Nagaprasanna observed that a decision on interim relief could not be made without examining the materials collected during the investigation.

The judge underscored the seriousness of the allegations, noting that any claim involving the rape of a foreign national in India warranted careful judicial scrutiny. The Court directed the Additional Special Public Prosecutor to submit the entire case record and posted the matter for further consideration on June 10.

According to the prosecution, a 25-year-old homestay

employee allegedly drugged an American woman by spiking her drink before sexually assaulting her on April 12. The accused remains in judicial custody after a trial court denied bail.

Ponnappa was later arrested for allegedly failing to disclose information about the incident to

police. After securing bail on May 2, he approached the High Court seeking quashing of the criminal case and ₹15 lakh compensation, alleging unlawful arrest.

The Court said it would first examine the investigation records before assessing Ponnappa's claims regarding violation of his rights. **BMB**

Delayed complaint derails pilot case

The Karnataka High Court has set aside criminal proceedings initiated in 2018 against Audrey Deepika Maben, India's first woman microlight aircraft examiner accredited by the DGCA, over allegations that she forged an examiner's signature and seal to renew her pilot licence in 2013-14.

Justice M Nagaprasanna quashed charges under Sections 420, 465 and related provisions of the IPC. The court observed, "The criminal court cannot be transformed into an arena for determination of highly technical aviation disputes, when the very regulatory body (DGCA),

entrusted with such a determination, is yet to record any finding against the petitioner."

A key factor was the unexplained delay in filing the complaint. "The explanation that the complainant suddenly 'discovered' the alleged forgery while cleaning her cupboard years later hardly inspires confidence," the court said.

Warning against stale allegations, the judge added: "If such belated awakenings, unsupported by any cogent explanation, are permitted to trigger criminal prosecution after years of silence, it would open floodgates for abuse of the criminal process and reduce the administration of criminal justice into an instru-

ment of personal vendetta." The dispute arose from Maben's attempts to renew her microlight pilot licence. She appeared for flying tests in November 2013 and September 2014, with Vinitha M.C. acting as examiner. In 2015, Maben obtained a divorce from her husband, allegedly over his relationship with Vinitha. Vinitha approached the DGCA in 2017, claiming no flying proficiency test had occurred, and later filed a police complaint alleging forgery.

The court noted the nearly three-year delay and held that allowing prosecution before the DGCA reached a conclusion would amount to abuse of process. **BMB**

Electricity lifeline misses thousands of B'luru homes

Temporary power users face mounting financial pressure while awaiting permanent connections despite completing construction and paying required charges

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Thousands of Bengaluru homeowners waiting for permanent electricity connections despite moving into completed houses may continue to remain in the dark, even after BESCOM announced a relaxation in Occupancy Certificate (OC) norms.

In a move that has triggered confusion among residents and electrical contractors alike, BESCOM has allowed certain residential buildings to obtain permanent electricity connections without an OC. However, only those who applied for a connection before May 31, 2026, are eligible. The order, issued in the first week of June, has led many to question how consumers who never applied because of the OC requirement can benefit from the relaxation.

The issue affects a large number of households in Bengaluru, where residents have relied on expensive temporary power connections for more than a year. Contractors estimate that nearly 3.5 lakh consumers

People did not apply because they knew applications without an OC would not be considered. The relaxation is welcome, but fresh applications must also be allowed

—Harsha Jain, an electrical contractor



Nearly 3.5 lakh consumers across Karnataka continue using temporary electricity connections

across the state are currently using temporary electricity connections. Of these, more than 1.54 lakh are within BESCOM's Bengaluru jurisdiction, while another 77,112 are in the Greater Bengaluru Area and 77,455 are in other BESCOM-covered

districts.

Residents say the financial burden has become unbearable. H Mahadevaswamy, a resident of Nagasandra who has been using a temporary connection, said, "While regular domestic consumers pay

₹5.80 per unit, temporary connections attract ₹10.50 per unit along with higher fixed charges, fuel adjustment costs and other surcharges, pushing the effective tariff to nearly ₹12 per unit. Many families report monthly bills of ₹7,000 to ₹8,000 despite having completed construction and paid charges for permanent connections."

The crisis intensified after a Supreme Court-linked compliance order made Occupancy Certificates mandatory for water and electricity connections from April 2025. Since then, applications for permanent power supply to buildings without OCs virtually stopped. According to energy department sources, more than 4.5 lakh electricity connection applications were pending across Karnataka by November 2025.

Under the latest order, issued under Section 241(7) of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024, a one-time exemption from obtaining an Occupancy Certificate has been granted only within the jurisdiction of the Greater Bengaluru Authority. The exemption is restricted to residential buildings constructed on plots measuring up to 2,400 sq ft, with an allowable deviation of up to 20 per cent. It applies only to completed G+3 residential buildings or structures with stilt parking plus four floors for which electricity connection applications were submitted on or before May 31, 2026.

Contractors argue that the cut-off date defeats the purpose of the exemption. "People did not apply because they knew applications without an OC would not be considered. The relaxation is welcome, but fresh applications must also be allowed," said Harsha Jain, an electrical contractor.

Two wanted rowdies nabbed in raid

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) Organised Crime Squad (East) arrested two absconding rowdy-sheeters during a raid on June 7 following information about suspected criminal activity.

Officials said the squad received credible information that more than 10 rowdy-sheeters were allegedly conspiring to commit crimes. Acting swiftly, CCB officers conducted surprise raids and apprehended Puneeth SV and Shivakumar alias Auto Shiva, both wanted in an Arms Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) case registered at Varthur Police Station. No deadly weapons were recovered. **BMB**

Eight-year run ends for rowdy-sheeter

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) police arrested a rowdy-sheeter who had been absconding for eight years and evading court proceedings in multiple criminal cases.

Acting on credible information received on June 5, 2026, CCB officers traced Shahid Pasha alias Dakkar Shahid, a rowdy-sheeter of KG Halli police station, near a mosque in Vinobha Nagar. Investigations revealed over 20 criminal cases against him in Bengaluru. During questioning, Shahid admitted skipping hearings in three pending cases. He was later handed over to KG Halli police. **BMB**

Father-daughter duo nabbed in job scam

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) arrested a father-daughter duo for allegedly cheating over 40 job aspirants of more than ₹5.30 crore by promising government jobs.

Police said the accused claimed links with senior officials and political leaders to secure jobs in departments including Railways, Income Tax, Health and Social Welfare. Investigations found they targeted unemployed youth, mainly from North Karnataka, issued fake appointment letters and ran bogus training centres. CCB arrested them on June 4, 2026. **BMB**

KSRTC to add 850 buses amid rising commuter complaints

State transport body shifts focus from refurbishments to new fleet expansion, promising safer, more reliable services for passengers statewide

Vasudha Zora
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

At the onset, commuter complaints about bus breakdowns and vehicle conditions have gained traction on social media, with many passengers sharing concerns about service inconsistencies and the quality of state-run buses. Amid this, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has said it will expand its fleet with 850 new buses in the next two to three months while continuing efforts to maintain and upgrade existing vehicles.

Nandini, a resident of K R Puram, said, "I had taken a bus from Mysuru to Bengaluru after visiting my family because I had to get back to work. I found myself completely stranded when the bus broke down and passengers were left to fend for themselves. Many people ended up hitchhiking."

She further shared that she filed a complaint online through the available portals, but received no resolution. She also alleged that the bus was running at high speeds despite experiencing mechanical issues, which she felt posed a risk to passenger safety.

Responding to such concerns, KSRTC Chief Engineer H K Srinivas said the corporation has refurbished 1,568 buses over the past few years at a cost of around Rs 200 crore. However, he said the corporation has now shifted its focus towards inducting new vehicles, with an estimated Rs 300-325 crore expected to be spent on procuring 850 buses.

Addressing concerns regarding vehicle fitness, Srinivas said buses undergo regular maintenance and inspection at KSRTC workshops before receiving mandatory certification.

"In order to get a fitness certificate, vehicles are taken to divisional workshops where body work, sheet-metal repairs, under-chassis main-



New bus procurement worth over ₹300 crore is expected to enhance passenger comfort and reduce service disruptions

Passengers voice frustration over breakdowns and poor bus conditions, but KSRTC promises relief with 850 new buses, aiming to restore confidence and improve safety across its extensive network

tenance and other necessary repairs are carried out. Post inspection, the vehicles are sent to the Regional Transport Office (RTO) for annual fitness certification," he said.

He added that when an immediate replacement vehicle is unavailable on a route, the department coordinates with nearby depots to minimise inconvenience. Most depots are located within 40-50 kilometres, allowing alternate buses to be arranged quickly.

The corporation also claims to actively

monitor complaints received through online platforms and social media. Srinivas said officials forward complaints to the concerned divisions and depots for action and generally address them within 24 hours of being lodged.

According to KSRTC data, the corporation operates around 8,900 buses across Karnataka and has refurbished 1,568 buses since 2023, accounting for nearly 18 per cent of its fleet. During the same period, it inducted 1,138 buses and scrapped 450 ageing vehicles as part of fleet rationalisation efforts.

Srinivas said KSRTC introduced the refurbishment programme when new bus procurement slowed, enabling the corporation to extend the operational life of older vehicles through engine overhauls, structural repairs and interior upgrades. He added that the programme will be phased out soon as the corporation shifts its focus to inducting new buses, which it hopes will improve service quality and address commuter concerns.

KPTCL powers green shift with ester

KPTCL has begun replacing conventional mineral oil used in high-voltage transformers with biodegradable natural ester oil. The initiative is part of the utility's efforts to modernise the power grid while reducing environmental risks associated with petroleum-based transformer oils. Of the 3,754 transformers currently operating across the state, 45 high-capacity transformers have already been converted to the eco-friendly alternative in the first phase of the programme. Officials explained that instead of replacing ageing transformers at significant cost, KPTCL is identifying units more than 15 years old and upgrading them to extend lifespan and performance. Energy Minister K J George said the shift will help protect the environment from chemical contamination while reducing fire risks at critical installations. KPTCL shifts to sustainability, boosting transformer efficiency and reducing pollution risks with eco-friendly ester oil.

-BMB

Rs 163-crore rail upgrade gets greenlight

Indian Railways has sanctioned a major infrastructure upgrade on the Bengaluru-Tumakuru section under South Western Railway, aimed at improving capacity, efficiency, and reliability on one of Karnataka's busiest rail corridors.

The project involves converting the existing 1x25 kV electric traction system to a more advanced 2x25 kV system across 120 track kilometres at an estimated cost of 162.57 crore. The Bengaluru-Tumakuru route forms part of the Highly Utilised Network (HUN) Route-10, linking major economic and industrial centres along the Pune-Hubballi-Chikjajur-Birur-Tumakuru-Bengaluru-Salem-Kanniyakumari corridor.

The upgraded traction system will strengthen power supply, support heavier freight and longer trains improve punctuality, reduce Bengaluru congestion, and meet growing transport demand.

-BMB

BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

Forest Department enforces strict monsoon safety norms at trekking sites

Visitor caps, trained guides, first-aid kits and walkie-talkie systems introduced to protect trekkers from risks during challenging monsoon trails

Sridhar Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

With trekking gaining immense popularity among young people, especially around Bengaluru, the Forest Department has stepped up safety measures at popular trekking destinations in Bengaluru Rural district ahead of the monsoon season. Officials have introduced a series of precautionary steps, including first-aid facilities, stricter visitor limits and plans to deploy walkie-talkie communication systems, to ensure the safety of trekkers during the rainy months when trails become more challenging and accident-prone.

Bengaluru Rural district has two officially recognised trekking destinations, Makalidurga and Huliyurdurga, both located a short distance from the city and attracting large numbers of outdoor enthusiasts every day. In view of the risks posed by slippery terrain, wet rocks and poor visibility during the monsoon, the department has put several measures in place to prevent mishaps and ensure a swift response in emergencies.

Recent incidents reported at trekking destinations across Karnataka have raised concerns about visitor safety, prompting authorities to adopt a more cautious approach. "One of the key measures introduced is a cap on the number of trekkers allowed each day. At both Makalidurga and



Trekkers climb rugged hill trails as the Forest Department prepares for increased monsoon footfall with added precautions

Huliyurdurga, only 200 visitors will be permitted daily through prior registration. We believe this restriction will help staff monitor visitor movement more effectively and respond quickly if any problems arise during the trek", a forest official said.

The department has also strengthened on-ground support systems. Trained guides are being assigned to trekking groups, with one guide

accompanying every 15 to 20 trekkers. Emergency first-aid kits and medical supplies are available at trekking points to provide immediate assistance in case of injuries. Officials said these arrangements are particularly important during the monsoon, when the chances of slips, falls and minor accidents increase significantly.

Further, the Forest Department is working on introducing walkie-talkie communication systems to improve coordination between guides and staff stationed at different points along the trekking routes. The move is expected to improve communication in areas where mobile network connectivity remains weak or unavailable, enabling quicker responses during emergencies.

Speaking on the measures, Bengaluru Rural Divisional Forest Officer Santosh Kumar said adequate

precautions have been taken at both trekking sites, but visitors must also exercise personal responsibility. Authorities have specifically warned trekkers against taking risks for selfies, a growing concern at scenic locations. Officials pointed out that many accidents occur when people attempt photographs on slippery rocks, near water bodies or at exposed hilltops. Trekkers have been advised to avoid dangerous spots and choose safer locations for photography.

Makalidurga, situated at an elevation of 1,112 metres above sea level, and Huliyurdurga, standing at 1,186 metres, remain among the most sought-after trekking destinations near Bengaluru. While the monsoon transforms these hills into picturesque green landscapes, officials emphasised that safety must remain the top priority for every visitor venturing outdoors.

Tickets out of reach? Fests to appease fans

Options to commune with fellow fans extend World Cup experience beyond the games

If those expensive tickets to World Cup matches are out of reach, there are still options to commune with fellow fans while watching the games.

From a floating pitch to Motley Crue, the World Cup fan festivals have something for everyone in addition to soccer.

As is the custom for the World Cup, the 16 cities across Canada, Mexico and the United States that are hosting games will all have fanfests, or fan zones. The Associated Press counted some 78 fan fests sanctioned by the FIFA host city organising committees.

But there are many more. Some 20 Major League Soccer teams are hosting events tied to the World Cup, with other teams partnering with the host city fan fests.

These are designated areas, often in parks and public squares, where fans can watch the games, enjoy food and beverages, take in some entertainment and buy official merch. It's also a



A man walks near a wall featuring an image of the critically endangered axolotl, a salamander native to central Mexico's lakes, as its use in public imagery ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 has divided residents who say more should be done to protect its habitat, in Mexico City

chance for cities to showcase local culture.

But this World Cup is unlike any of the previous versions. There are 48 teams, which means there are more games spread out over a longer timeline. Cities are already stretched thin by economic stressors like inflation and gas prices.

While cities got some federal dollars for the World Cup, those funds have not covered all the costs. As a result, some of the festivals are cutting back days of operation, and other are charging for tickets, guaranteed admission, seats or elevated experiences — like cabanas in the Houston heat.

In an effort to make sure the people

of New York "don't feel overlooked," Gov. Kathy Hochul and New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani announced free fan fests in each of the city's five boroughs. There is also a fan fest planned for Sports Illustrated Stadium in Harrison, New Jersey.

MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, which will be dubbed New York New Jersey Stadium during the World Cup, will host eight matches, including the final.

"Every fan should be able to watch the greatest tournament on earth without dipping into their savings," Mamdani said.

Concerns over costs to cities caused Toronto to float a plan to charge \$10 for entry to the official fan fest scheduled for Fort York and the Bentway. But there was outcry.

Now some 16,000 tickets a day will be free, but nearly 4,000 premium tickets will also be sold. Organisers said the charge was necessary to prevent overcrowding and make sure the events didn't go over budget.

"Toronto residents already paid \$180 million to host the games, and tickets to the stadium are cost prohibitive for most people," Josh Matlow, a Toronto city councilor, said on social media. "At the very least, an event that

was promised to residents, no matter their means, so that everyone can be part of the World Cup, will be free and accessible to all."

The larger cities presented a challenge for the hosts, so rather than one fan fest, there are many.

In Mexico City, there's an official fan fest in the Zocalo, the renowned public square in the heart of the city, but Mayor Clara Brugada announced plans for 18 other free community events where locals can watch the matches.

Many fan fest concerts are free, but most are first-come, first-served, and require advanced registration. There are options for paid premium seating.

The lineups run the gamut of musical styles and tastes.

In Vancouver, British Columbia, Flo Rida, Ziggy Marley and Motley Crue are among those performing at the city's fan zone in PNE Grounds at Hastings Park.

Kansas City's fan fest will have performances by the Chainsmokers, Sheryl Crow, the All-American Rejects and others at the National WWI Museum and Memorial.

Imagine Dragons and Enrique Iglesias are among the acts at Parque Fundidora in Monterrey, Mexico.—AP

Preliminary group analysis, squads and their chances with FIFA rankings

Group C

Brazil (6), Morocco (7), Haiti (81), Scotland (43)

Brazil and Morocco should have no difficulty in Group C. The only five-times champions Brazil are always the sentimental favourites in any World Cup if only for the fact that they treat football as an art where the ball is meant to be caressed and coaxed as gently as possible. Either Alisson Becker or Emerson in the goal, Gabriel, Marquinhos and Danilo in defence, Pacquinta, Raphinha and Neymar in midfield gives Brazil a shield hard to break. But the attack looks a little devoid of the class normally associated with a Brazilian team. Vinicius Junior, Martinelli as also Endrick are a very accomplished trio. Vinicius and Martinelli have the skills and speed but somewhat fall shy in their shooting prowess. Every team puts its best foot forward against Brazil. Hence scoring goals will be very important. Morocco enthralled the crowds in Qatar and should follow Brazil on the table. Scotland, despite the presence of John McGinn, the Europa League winner this year, and Haiti cannot be expected to offer much resistance.

Squads
Brazil - Seleccion (The Selection)

Goalkeepers: Alisson, Ederson, Weverton.
Defenders: Alex Sandro, Bremer, Danilo, Douglas Santos, Gabriel Magalhaes, Ibanez, Leo Pereira, Marquinhos, Wesley.

Midfielders: Bruno Guimaraes, Casemiro, Danilo Santos, Fabinho, Lucas Paqueta.

Forwards: Endrick, Gabriel Martinelli, Igor Thiago, Luiz Henrique, Matheus Cunha, Neymar Jr, Raphinha, Rayan, Vinicius Jr. Manager: Carlo Ancelotti (Italy).

Morocco - The Atlas Lions

Goalkeepers: Yassine Bounou, Munir El Kajoui, Ahmed Reda Tagnaouti.

Defenders: Noussair Mazraoui, Anas Salah-

Eddine, Youssef Bellammari, Achraf Hakimi, Zakaria El Ouahdi, Nayef Aguerd, Chadi Riad, Redouane Halhal, Issa Diop.

Midfielders: Samir El Mourabet, Ayoub Bouaddi, Neil El Aynaoui, Sofyan Amrabat, Azzedine Ounahi, Bilal El Khannouss, Ismael Saibari.

Forwards: Abdesamad Ezzalzouli, Chemsdine Talbi, Soufiane Rahimi, Ayoub El Kaabi, Brahim Diaz, Yassine Gessim, Ayoub Amaimouni-Echghouyab. Manager: Walid Regragui (Morocco).

Haiti - Les Grenadiers (The Grenadiers)

Goalkeepers: Josue Duverger, Alexandre Pierre, Johnny Placide.

Defenders: Ricardo Ade, Carlens Arcus, Hannes Delcroix, Jean-Kevin Duverne, Martin Experience, Duke Lacroix, Wilguens Pagain, Keeto Thermoncy.

Midfielders: Carl Fred Sainte, Jean-Ricner Bellegarde, Leverton Pierre, Danley Jean Jacques, Woodensky Pierre, Dominique Simon.

Forwards: Josue Casimir, Louicius Deedson, Derrick Etienne Jr., Yassin Fortune, Wilson Isidor, Lenny Joseph, Duckens Nazon, Frantzdy Pierrot, Ruben Providence. Manager: Sebastien Migne (France).

Scotland - The Tartan Army

Goalkeepers: Craig Gordon, Angus Gunn, Liam Kelly.

Defenders: Grant Hanley, Jack Hendry, Aaron Hickey, Dom Hyam, Scott McKenna, Nathan Patterson, Anthony Ralston, Andy Robertson, John Souttar, Kieran Tierney. Midfielders: Ryan Christie, Findlay Curtis, Lewis Ferguson, Tyler Fletcher, Ben Gannon-Doak, John McGinn, Kenny McLean, Scott McTominay.

Forwards: Che Adams, Lyndon Dykes, George Hirst, Lawrence Shankland, Ross Stewart. Manager: Steve Clark (Scotland)

Group D

USA (16), Paraguay (40), Australia (27), Turkiye (22)

Turkiye, USA and Australia could be involved in a three-way fight in Group D. This is indeed a tricky group with USA, Turkiye and Australia having as much of a chance as the other to be among the top two. It will be a question of who will blink first. The USA has often flattered to deceive but could do better on home soil. Goalkeeper Altay Bayindir, Arda Guler, Hakan Calhanoglu, Deniz Gul are among Turkiye's top stars and could produce vintage stuff and fight for the top spot and more. Australia came close to some miracles in previous editions but may find the going tough this time around. South American challengers Paraguay have some experience but do they have the quality in this pack to cause problems?

Squads
United States of America - The Stars and Stripes

Goalkeepers: Chris Brady, Matt Freese, Matt Turner.

Defenders: Max Arfsten, Sergino Dest, Alex Freeman, Mark McKenzie, Tim Ream, Chris Richards, Antonee Robinson, Miles Robinson, Joe Scally, Auston Trusty.

Midfielders: Tyler Adams, Sebastian Berhalter, Weston McKennie, Cristian Roldan, Brenden Aaronson, Christian Pulisic, Gio Reyna, Malik Tillman, Tim Weah, Alejandro Zendejas.

Forwards: Folarin Balogun, Ricardo Pepi, Haji Wright. Manager: Mauricio Pochettino (Argentina).

Paraguay - La Albirroja (The White and Red)

Goalkeepers: Orlando Gill, Roberto Fernandez, Gaston Oliveira.

Defenders: Juan Caceres, Gustavo

Velazquez, Gustavo Gomez, Junior Alonso, Jose Canale, Omar Alderete, Alexandro Maidana, Fabian Balbuena.

Midfielders: Diego Gomez, Mauricio Magalhaes, Damian Bobadilla, Braian Ojeda, Andres Cubas, Matias Galarza, Alejandro Gamarra.

Forwards: Gustavo Caballero, Ramon Sosa, Alex Arce, Isidro Pitta, Gabriel Avalos, Miguel Almiron, Julio Enciso, Antonio Sanabria. Manager: Gustavo Alfaro (Argentina).

Australia - Socceroos

Goalkeepers: Patrick Beach, Paul Izzo, Mathew Ryan.

Defenders: Aziz Behich, Jordan Bos, Cameron Burgess, Alessandro Circati, Milos Degenek, Jason Geria, Lucas Herrington, Jacob Italiano, Harry Souttar, Kai Trewin.

Midfielders: Cameron Devlin, Ajdin Hrustic, Jackson Irvine, Connor Metcalfe, Aiden O'Neill, Paul Okon-Engstler.

Forwards: Nestory Irankunda, Mathew Leckie, Awer Mabil, Mohamed Toure, Nisahan Velupillay, Cristian Volpato, Tete Yengi. Manager: Tony Popovic (Australia).

Turkiye - The Crescent-Stars

Goalkeepers: Altay Bayindir, Mert Gunok, Ugurcan Cakir.

Defenders: Abdulkemim Bardakci, Caglar Soyuncu, Eren Elmali, Ferdi Kadioglu, Merih Demiral, Mert Muldur, Ozan Kabak, Samet Akaydin, Zeki Celik.

Midfielders: Hakan Calhanoglu, Ismail Yuksek, Kaan Ayhan, Orkun Kokcu, Salih Ozcan.

Forwards: Arda Guler, Baris Alper Yilmaz, Can Uzun, Deniz Gul, Irfan Can Kahveci, Kenan Yildiz, Kerem Akturkoglu, Oguz Aydin, Yunus Akgun. Manager: Vincenzo Montella (Italy).

Brutal day on the road: 3 die in separate accidents

Three people, including a 19-year-old engineering student, were killed in separate road accidents across Bengaluru within 24 hours. The victims died in crashes reported on NICE Road, near the Hebbal flyover and at Sheshadripuram, while two others sustained injuries and are undergoing treatment.

In the first incident, a 19-year-old engineering student was killed and his classmate injured after a speeding truck allegedly rammed their two-wheeler from behind on NICE Road under the Hulimavu traffic police limits on Monday afternoon. The deceased, Chirag, was a first-year B.Tech student at a private college in RR Nagar and a native of Channapatna.

Police said Chirag and his classmate Inchara were among a group of 12 friends returning from a café in Jigani after lunch. As Chirag was riding the scooter with Inchara as pillion, a truck allegedly hit them from behind, throwing both onto the road. They were rushed to a nearby hospital, where Chirag succumbed to his injuries. Inchara is undergoing treatment. The truck driver fled the

scene after abandoning the vehicle.

In another accident, Lakkisain (26), a pickup truck driver from Rajasthan, lost his life after the vehicle he was travelling in crashed into the rear of a truck near the Hebbal flyover on-ramp early on Monday. Police said he and his friend were transporting garments from Rajasthan to Bengaluru. At around 3.45 am, while proceeding towards Marathahalli, the pickup truck allegedly lost control and collided with a truck ahead. Lakkisain died on the spot, while his friend sustained injuries and is recovering in hospital.

In another road accident, Ravikumar (36), a plumber from Hebbal, lost his life after his motorcycle collided with a goods auto rickshaw near Seshadripuram Main Road on Sunday night. Police said the incident took place around 11 pm while he was returning home.

The goods auto rickshaw, allegedly being driven at high speed, crashed into his motorcycle, leaving him critically injured. He was rushed to KC General Hospital for treatment but succumbed to his injuries. **BMB**

Stray cattle run riot, polish off newly-planted saplings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

saplings. However, there is no safety for the saplings from stray cattle. Vengaiah Lake does not have a fence on one side. The authorities must fence the lake immediately," Guruprasad said.

Appealing to the authorities to fence all lakes in Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) limits, Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist, has said that many lakes in the area do not have proper fences. "Lake volunteers have been struggling a lot to safeguard saplings and plants at Basavanapura Lake from stray cattle. A major portion of the fence is broken and it needs to be replaced with a new fence to prevent stray cattle from enter-

ing the lake area. Authorities need to fence Ganga Shetty Lake, Battarahalli Lake, and Seegehalli Lake," said Raghotham.

Lake activists told BM that authorities have failed to fence the lakes as revenue officials need to survey the lake area and clear encroachments. A few residents complain that there is no safety for saplings planted along the footpaths in the city. "Stray cattle not only damage saplings planted on Annaswamy Mudaliar Road, but also create nuisance and also block the pathway for pedestrians," said Purushotham, a resident of the area.

Usha Rajagopalan, Chairperson of Puttenahalli

Neighbourhood Lake Improvement Trust, said that the problem of stray cattle entering the lake has been mitigated with the installation of a cattle barrier. "A portion of the lake land is yet to be fenced but there is no stray cattle problem here," said Rajagopalan.

Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) Executive Engineer (Lakes) Bhooprada said that she has been preparing an estimation for providing fencing for lakes. "We have received funds for the maintenance of lakes and to take up civil works at the lakes. All the damaged fences will be replaced with new fences. Efforts are being made to clear encroachments of lakeland," the executive engineer said.

Your Connect

tender & notices

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the provisions of Section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with applicable rules, and subject to approval of the Regional Director, the Company proposes to shift its Registered Office from the State of Karnataka to the State of Odisha.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of registered office may deliver or cause to be delivered his/her objections, if any, to the Regional Director at M.S. Building, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru 560001 within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the Company at its registered office.

Sd/-
Director
KRISTELLAR AEROSPACE PVT. LTD.
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Bangalore, Karnataka, India, 560102.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Angad Singh Bedi, S/o Jasjit Singh Bedi, aged about 41 years, residing at 1-72, Diamond District, Old Airport Road, Kodihalli, Bengaluru - 560008, hereby inform that my name reflects as S. Angad Singh Bedi in some of my records and as in certain other records. Both the names, S. Angad Singh Bedi and Angad Singh Bedi, refer to one and the same person (i.e. myself).

Henceforth, I shall be known as Angad Singh Bedi for all purposes vide affidavit dated on 27/5/26 sworn before the Notary S.I. Balaguru at Bengaluru

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Maulana Bashir Ahmed R/o Near Begum Masjid Begum Mohalla Sira Tumkur-572137 have changed my name to Basheer Ahmed.

I, Kalyani Anand R/o: D3-172, SNN Raj Etternia, Silver County Road, Harlur Road, Off Sarjapur Road, Bangalore-560068, have changed my name to Kalyani Kumari.

I, MAHESH RAMACHANDRA, Residing at No 1001, Athithi Pearl, Flat No 401, 4th Floor, 23rd Main Road, 37th Cross, Jayanagar 4th T Block, Bangalore-560041. Have changed my minor Son name SHIVAM MAHESH RAMACHANDRA to SHIVAM MAHESH vide affidavit dated 8/6/2026 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, DERRICK LOUIS GEORGE BABU, R/a No.80, 6th Cross, HC Sririkaatatah Layout, Shampura Road, AC Post, Bangalore-45. I, have Changed my name to MOHAMMED IBRAHIM Vide affidavit dated 06.06.2026 Sworn before Notary R.Basavaraja Bangalore

I, Javedu Shaik S/o Mohammad Rafik Shaik R/o Plot No A-204, Alphane Building, Vaishnavi Serene Apts, Ivri Road, Yalahanka New Town, Bengaluru- 560064. Have Changed My Name To Shaik Saleem Javed For All Purposes.

I, DEEKSHA JAIN W/o SHUBHAM JAIN residing of No. B116, Samhita Greenwoods, Thubarahalli, Whitefield, Bengaluru, karnataka Pin - 560066 have changed my name to DIKSHA JAIN vide affidavit dated: 4/6/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, Harsajansingh Surjeet Singh S/o, Surjeet Singh R/o Flat No A 802 Sumadhura Silver Ripples, 222/183, Nallurahalli, Borewell Road, Whitefield, Bengaluru, 560066 have changed my name to Har Sajjan Singh for all purposes

I, Biradar Kamalakr S/o Limbajirao Biradar R/o No 16, Krishna Nivas, Kalpavruksha Layout, D B Sandra, Vidyanarayana Post, B'lore-560097 have changed my name to Kamalakr B L for all purposes

I, S SURESHKUMAR, S/o SRINIVASAN, R/o No 177, BBS Illam, 1st A Cross, 2nd Main, Pailayout, Bengaluru - 560016, have changed my name to S U R E S H K U M A R SRINIVASAN

I, Sajida Begum Mohammed Babu R/O No 186/1-2 11th Cross 1st Main Rd Babujinagar Bangalore 560026 Have Changed My Name To Sajida Begum Malik For All Purposes.

I, Urvashi Jeevan Singh Basera, villa no q14 chaitanya samarpan, kannamangala, Bengaluru 560067, have changed my name to Urvashi Basera

I, Shakir Begaum w/o Abdul Jabbar R/o No.283, 8th Cross, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, RT Nagar Post, Bengaluru 560032 have changed my name as SHAKIRA BEGUM

I, Sukhvir Kaur Sood, R/o 110, NR Royal Manor, Royal Enclave, Srirampura, Jakkur, Bengaluru-560064, have changed my name to Sukhvir Sood.

I VARDHANAM PILAKA (as per Aadhaar) alias P V P VARDHANAM (as per 10th/12th Marks Card) alias P I L A K A V E N K A T A PUSHKARA VARDHANAM (as per Engg Degree Cert) alias VARDHANAM V P PILAKA (as per DL) alias VENKATA PUSHKARA VARDHANAM PILAKA (as per Passport Y5626630) D/o Mr. SATYA NARAYANA MURTI PILAKA, aged 34 yrs born on 12 Sep 1991 residing at H No 5 and 6 4th Main Nataraja Layout 7th Phase J P Nagar Bangalore Karnataka - 560078 have changed my name to VARDHANAM PILAKA for all future purposes (Reason - Long Name) vide affidavit bearing Certificate No - IN-KA78446935082080Y dated 3-June-2026 sworn before notary L PUTTARAJU, Bengaluru Reg. No. LAW 173 LCL 2005

I zeba fathima Mohammed Mohsin w/o Sheikh Mohammed Suhail r/o 1120 21st cross, 14thmain 3rd sector hsr layout Bangalore will henceforth be known as Zeba Fathima.

B'luru's ants have moderate genetic variation



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

population of more than 50 pest species that negatively impact farm yield. They are also canopy predators. These ants feed on herbivorous insects and protect tropical trees such as mangoes, cashews, etc.

"These ants also help in nutrient cycling and soil enrichment, especially in an urban environment. They create nests on trees with leaves and silk from their larvae. When these nests are used, they fall on the ground and decompose, enriching the soil," said an entomologist.

Researchers surveyed 12 locations across Karnataka, including Anekal and Nelamangala in Bengaluru, Bangarpet in Kolar, Channapatna, Magadi, and Kanakapura in Ramnagara, Hosanagara in Shivamogga, Koppa in Chikkamagaluru, Malavalli, Nagamangala and Srirangapatna in Mandya, and Shidlaghatta in Chikkaballapura.

The highest genetic diversity in weaver ants, or the healthiest population of Weaver ants, was recorded from Bangarpet and the least healthy population was found in Shidlaghatta

and Srirangapatna.

During the study period, abiotic factors, i.e., air temperature, humidity, landscape elevation, atmospheric pressure, wind speed, ultraviolet radiation, and visibility indices, were documented. Experts say that while ants act as vital ecosystem engineers in an urban setup, urbanisation leading to habitat loss may threaten species diversity.

"We found that genetic diversity or overall health conditions of these ants were impacted by the temperature, humidity, landscape elevation, atmospheric pressure, wind speed, and cloudiness. While Bengaluru has expanded multifold in the last few years, a decent genetic diversity of the Asian Weaver ant population shows that not all is lost as yet," added Rajashekara.

Experts say the population and genetic diversity of Asian Weaver ants can be strengthened by providing a favourable habitat of native fruiting trees and flowering shrubs, apart from other trees with dense canopies.

This work was published in the International Journal of Tropical Insect Science.



LYMPHATIC DRAINAGE: HYPE OR HEALTH?

Understanding lymphoedema, treatment options and common misconceptions

Did you know your body has an inbuilt sewerage system? It's called the lymphatic system, a crucial part of how the body fights infection and disease.

Recently, the lymphatic system has gained attention online, with social media influencers promoting "lymphatic drainage" for beauty and skin health. But what exactly is it, and does the science support the claims?

What does the lymphatic system do?

The lymphatic system is a network of tiny vessels that branch throughout most tissues in the body. These vessels carry lymph, a colourless fluid containing specialised white blood cells called lymphocytes, which help fight infection.

Unlike blood, which circulates continuously around the body, lymph moves in one direction. It begins as excess fluid in body tissues, which is collected by lymphatic capillaries. The fluid then passes through larger lymph vessels and lymph nodes before draining back into the bloodstream.

The lymphatic system has three main functions:

- Draining excess fluid to prevent swelling.
- Supporting immunity by helping the body detect and respond to bacteria, viruses, parasites and cancer cells.
- Absorbing fats from food and transporting them into the body.

When something goes wrong

If the lymphatic system does not function properly, swelling can occur in the affected area. This condition, known as



lymphoedema, most commonly affects the arms or legs.

There are two main types of lymphoedema. Primary lymphoedema occurs when the lymphatic system does not develop correctly, often because of a genetic condition affecting the number of lymphatic vessels or their ability to move fluid.

Secondary lymphoedema develops when the lymphatic system is damaged. Cancer treatment is a common cause, as lymph nodes may be removed during surgery or damaged by radiation therapy.

Lymphoedema indicates that lymph fluid is not draining

properly. To compensate, the body redirects lymph into tiny capillaries near the skin. This is similar to a traffic jam forcing vehicles off a motorway and onto smaller roads that soon become congested.

A specialised imaging technique called indocyanine green lymphography can help determine whether the lymphatic system is congested. If persistent swelling occurs, a GP will first rule out other causes before referring patients to a lymphoedema specialist if necessary.

People with lymphoedema are also more vulnerable to infections because their lymphatic system is impaired. One common and

potentially serious complication is cellulitis, a bacterial skin infection that causes redness and swelling.

What is lymphatic drainage?

The primary treatment for lymphoedema is compression therapy, which involves wearing medical stockings or bandages that apply pressure to the swollen area. This helps move excess fluid and soften hardened tissue.

Exercise can also help because muscle contractions act as a pump, encouraging the movement of lymph and other fluids through the body.

Skincare is another important part of treatment. Washing with pH-neutral soap and using moisturiser helps keep the skin healthy, reducing the risk of cracks and infections that can worsen lymphoedema.

Some patients may benefit from manual lymphatic drainage, a specialised massage performed by trained practitioners. The technique is designed to move fluid away from congested areas and support lymph flow when the body's natural drainage system is struggling.

However, there is limited evidence that manual lymphatic drainage alone produces significant or lasting improvements in lymphoedema. Evidence supporting claims that it enhances skin health or beauty is even weaker, with any benefits likely to be minor or short-lived.

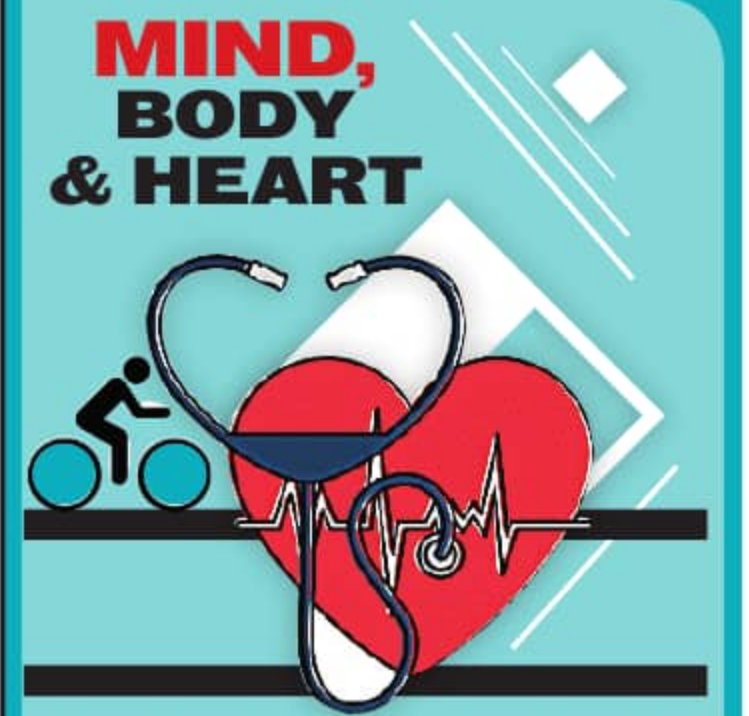
The bottom line

If your lymphatic system is functioning normally and you do not have swelling, you are unlikely to need lymphatic drainage. The best ways to support lymphatic health are maintaining a balanced diet, staying hydrated and exercising regularly.

If you notice persistent swelling or have concerns about your lymphatic system, consult your GP. People undergoing cancer treatment should seek advice from an accredited lymphoedema practitioner.

If manual lymphatic drainage is recommended, it should be performed by a qualified therapist and used alongside evidence-based treatments such as compression therapy, exercise and proper skincare.

(By Belinda Thompson and Louise Koelmeyer, Macquarie University, *The Conversation*)



All you need to know about...

Peaceful nights

Sleep is one of the most important pillars of good health. Quality sleep does not simply happen when your eyes are tired from staring at a screen. Your nervous system constantly scans for signs of safety before shifting from an alert state to a restorative one. These simple habits can help improve your sleep.

Dim the lights: Bright light at night signals to the brain that it is still daytime. Lowering the lights at least an hour before bed encourages the production of melatonin, the hormone that supports sleep.

Switch off from work: Unfinished tasks can keep the mind active and prevent relaxation. Set a clear end to your workday and leave remaining tasks for the next morning.

Practise slow breathing: Gentle breathing activates the body's relaxation response, reducing stress and preparing you for rest. Try breathing in for four counts and out for six counts for a few minutes before bed.

Create a comfortable sleep space: A cool, tidy and cosy bedroom helps the mind feel safe and relaxed. Adjust the room temperature and bedding to suit your comfort.

Reduce digital stimulation: Social media, notifications and online content can keep the brain engaged long after screen time ends. Avoid screens for 30 to 60 minutes before bed and opt for calming activities such as reading or listening to soft music.

Follow a consistent routine: Repeating simple activities, such as washing your face, stretching and reading, in the same order each evening helps signal that bedtime is approaching. Release tension and reflect: Gentle stretches can ease physical stress, while noting a few accomplishments from the day can create a sense of closure and help quieten a busy mind.

—Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

Climate change may bring deadly heat conditions throughout monsoon

Hot and humid conditions during India's monsoon could significantly extend the period of uncompensable heat stress (UHS) as global temperatures rise by 2°C, according to a study published in AGU Advances.

Researchers from IIT Gandhinagar, Stanford University and Purdue University found that while UHS has traditionally been more common during the summer months, monsoon-related heat stress is expected to rise sharply under a warming climate. UHS oc-

curs when the body can no longer cool itself effectively through sweating because of extreme heat and humidity, increasing the risk of heat-related illness, organ failure and death.

The study found that the area affected by UHS in India increased from less than 0.01 million sq km in the 1980s to 0.04 million sq km by 2020. Between 1979 and 2021, summer UHS affected around eight per cent of the country, compared with one per cent during the monsoon.

Under a 2°C warming scenario, however, UHS could affect 60 per cent of India during summer and 53 per cent during the monsoon. The researchers estimate that between 800 million and 1.2 billion people could be exposed under different warming levels.

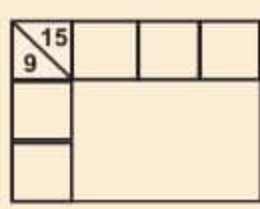
North-western India, the Gangetic Plain and eastern coastal regions are expected to face the greatest risks, particularly during monsoon breaks when humidity remains high.

—PTI



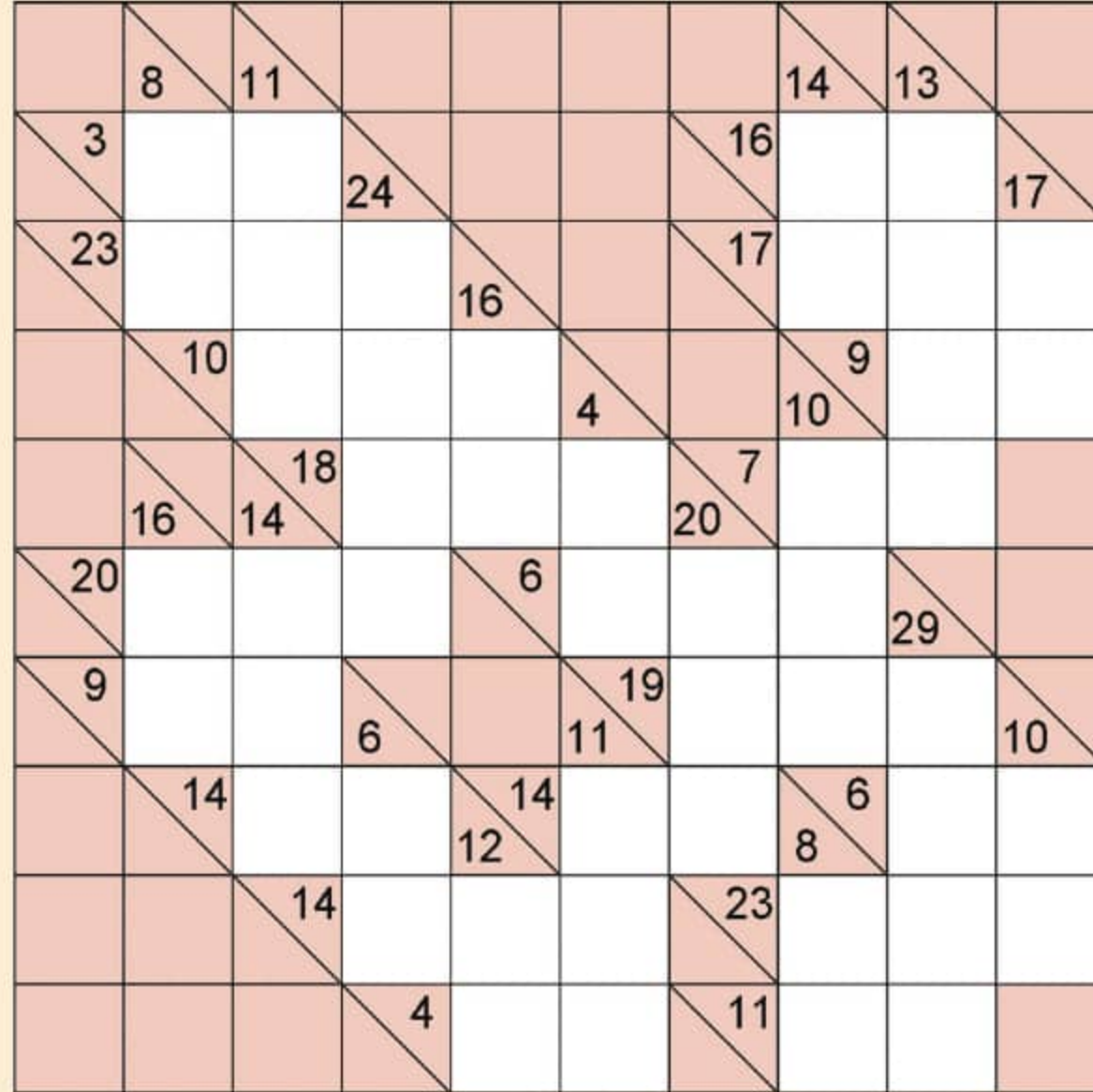
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

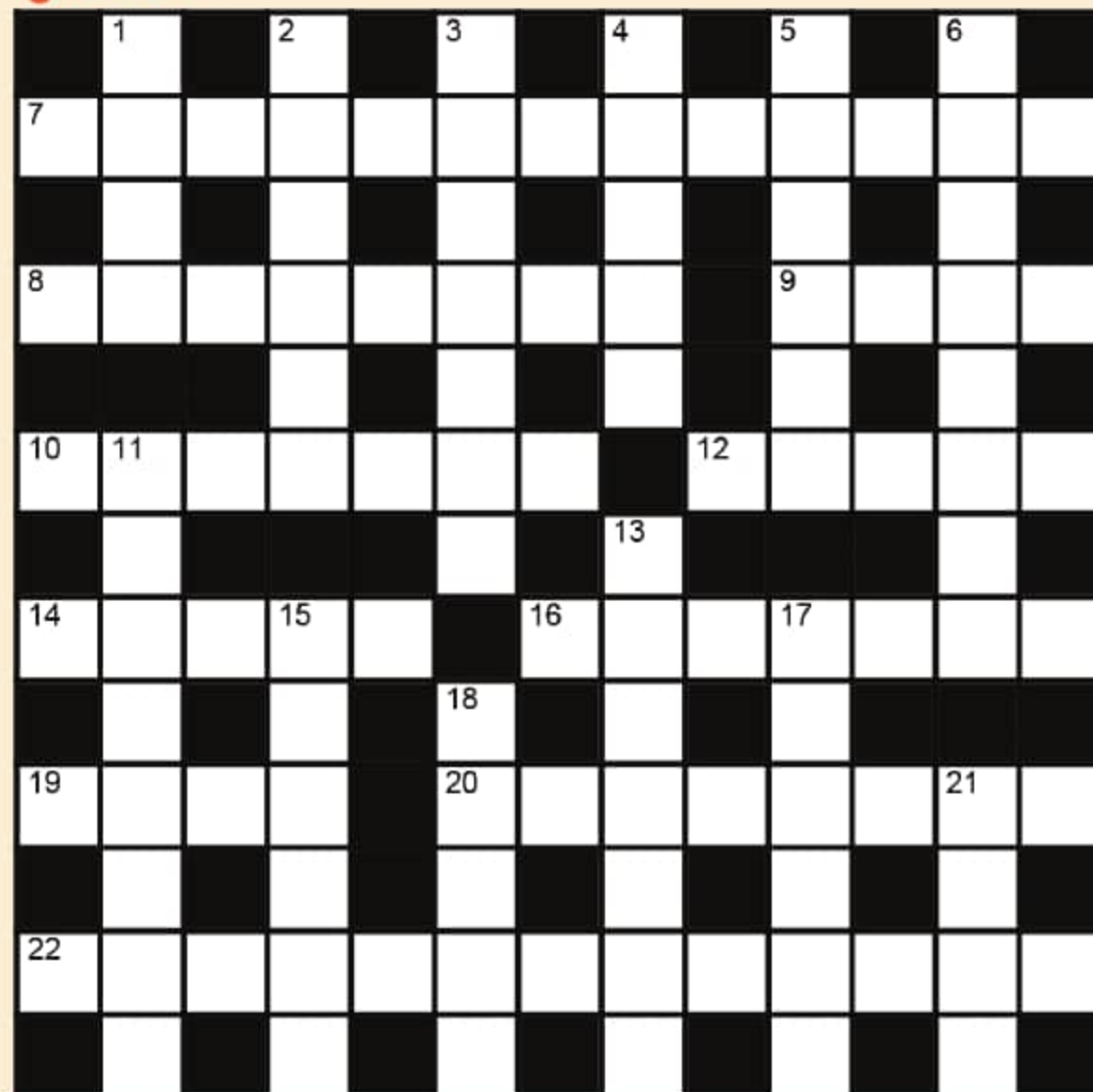


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 7 A type of liqueur (5,2,6)
- 8 Suffering or bearing (8)
- 9 Mom's sister (4)
- 10 Bordered on (7)
- 12 Stomach or tummy (5)
- 14 Ornate, not at all plain (5)
- 16 Duty lists (7)
- 19 Doing nothing (4)
- 20 The science of tumours? (8)
- 22 ATM? (4,9)

DOWN

- 1 Tehran's locale (4)
- 2 Total, quantity or sum (6)
- 3 Thought highly of (7)
- 4 Likeness (5)
- 5 Employ (6)
- 6 ___ Bing of Friends (8)
- 11 Governor of Karnataka from 2009 to 2014 (8)
- 13 Surgical pincers? (7)
- 15 Daycare centre (6)
- 17 A bird's claws (6)
- 18 Mrs Gandhi of the INC (5)
- 21 Became larger (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS D
HGL JIBMR HIRTP RILCU'H
XTWL CLUCL, CI JGP CGISMR Z
FTZUH FZDHSBLC HGTH
RI?—FTYMI FZDTCCI



Linemaro

You don't need reflective gear; nobody could miss you



Mindchow

Man cannot learn to forget, but hangs on the past: however far or fast he runs, that chain runs with him



Joke of the day

Those who rise to executive positions lack the qualifications for anything lower

Loop

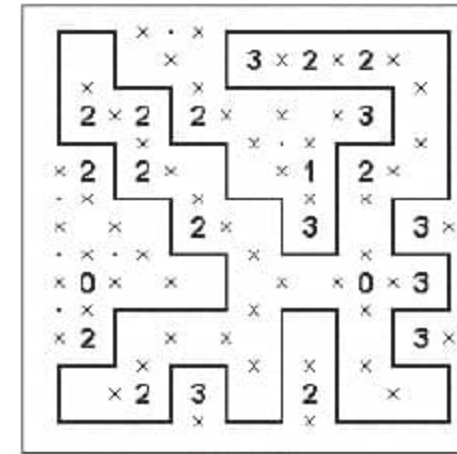
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

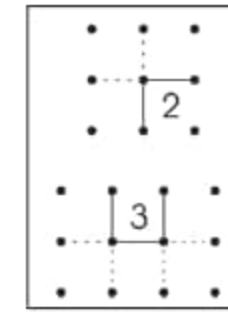
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

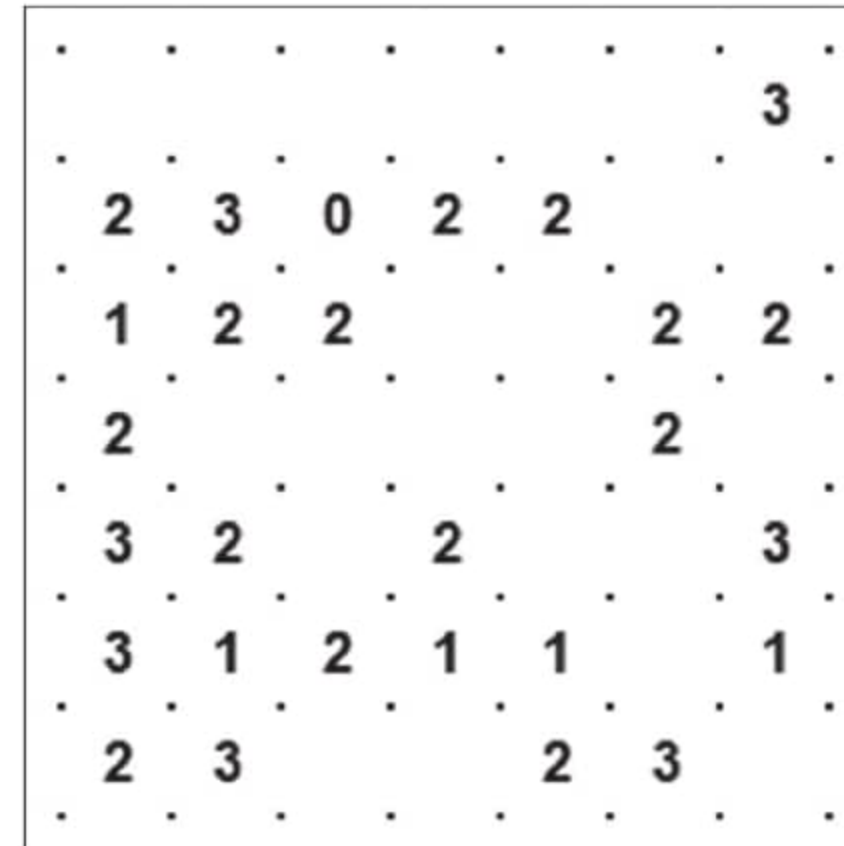
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



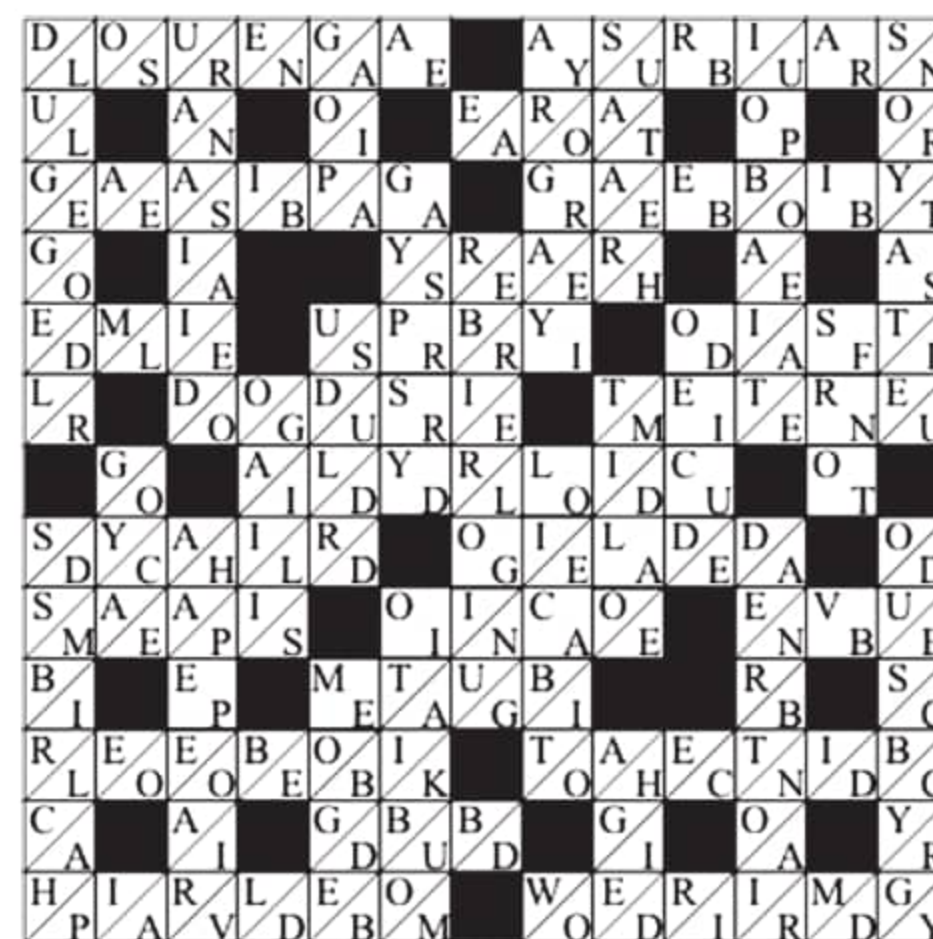
(Fig A)



(Fig B)
Not Allowed



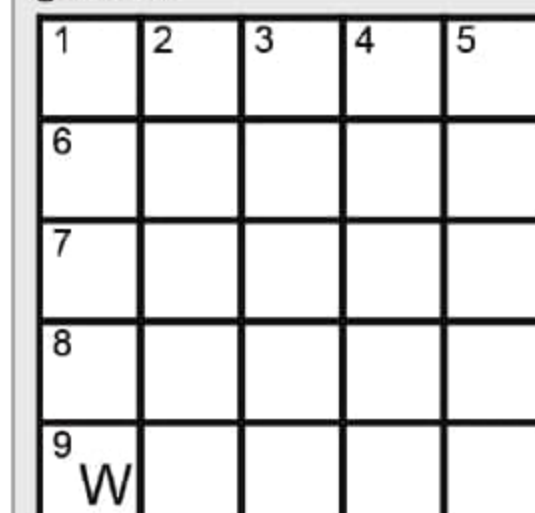
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

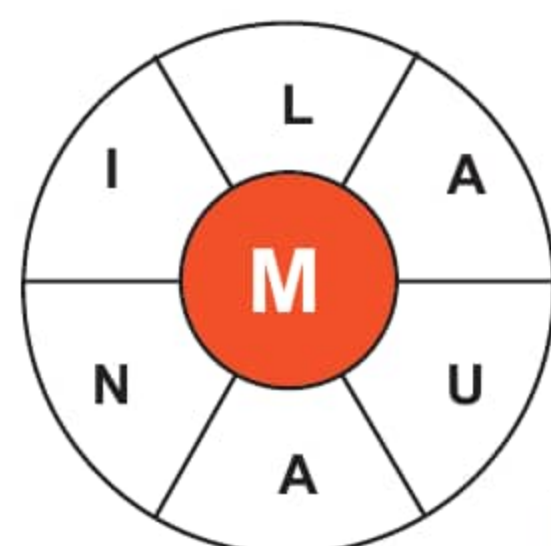
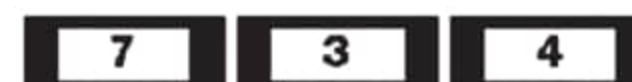
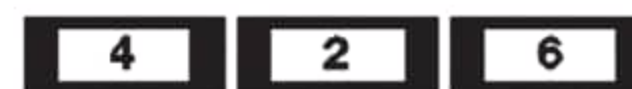
- 1 Rotas; 6 IT eve;
- 7 Moans; 8 Later;
- 9 With D

DOWN

- 1 Wears; 2 Olivo V;
- 3 Demia; 4 Tarts;
- 5 He TNT

Mensapuzzle

Which number goes in the empty box?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 11 Good; 12 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

= 1

= 27

Medium

= 10

= 10

= 10

= 10

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Smokestack is shorter. 2. Man is thinner. 3. Leg is moved. 4. Woman's collar is different. 5. Arm is longer. 6. Board is added to pier.

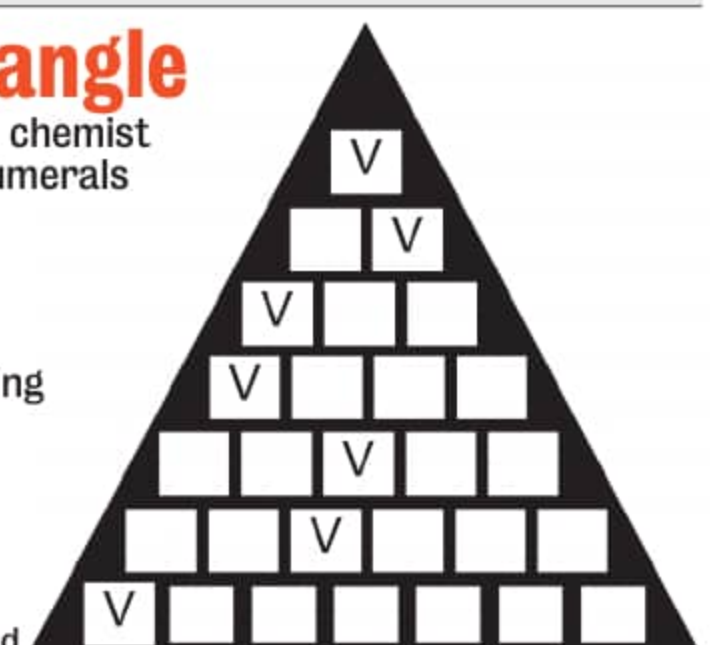
Riddler

Scratch his head, sticks in the box, No ball but a strike, not heavy but light, Beware of harm, it gets quite warm, Its job is done and then it's gone. Who or what is he?

Alpha triangle

- 1 Vanadium for the chemist
- 2 Four in Roman numerals
- 3 Wine (Fr.)
- 4 Blood vessel
- 5 Granted
- 6 Yield (4,2)
- 7 Obscuring or hiding

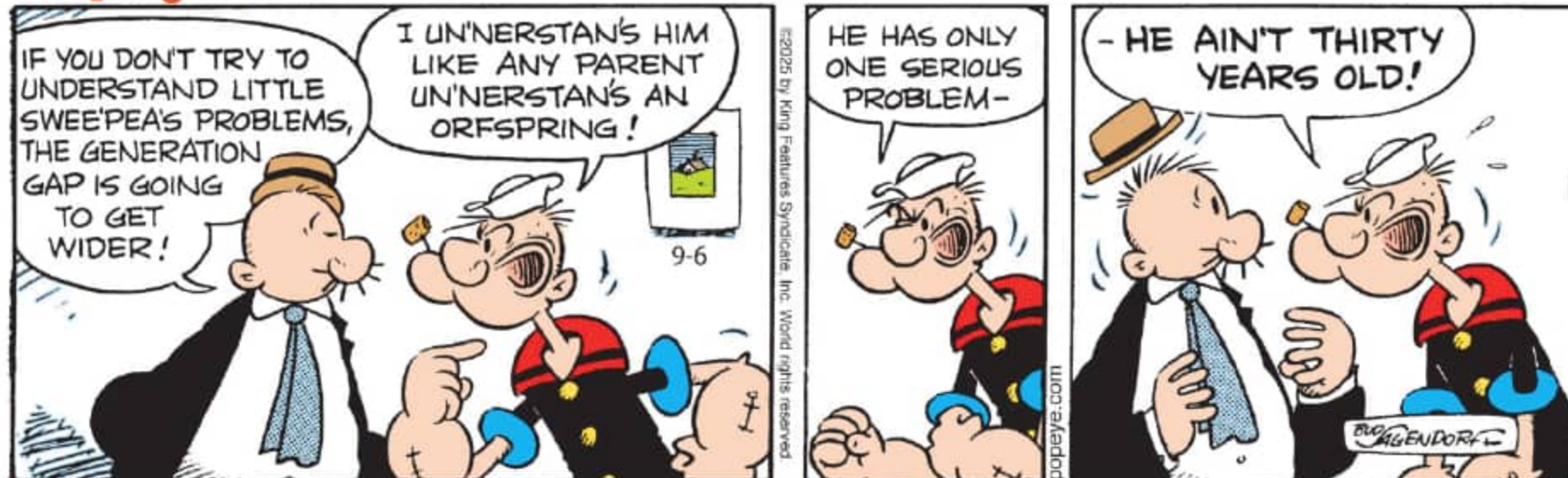
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Popeye



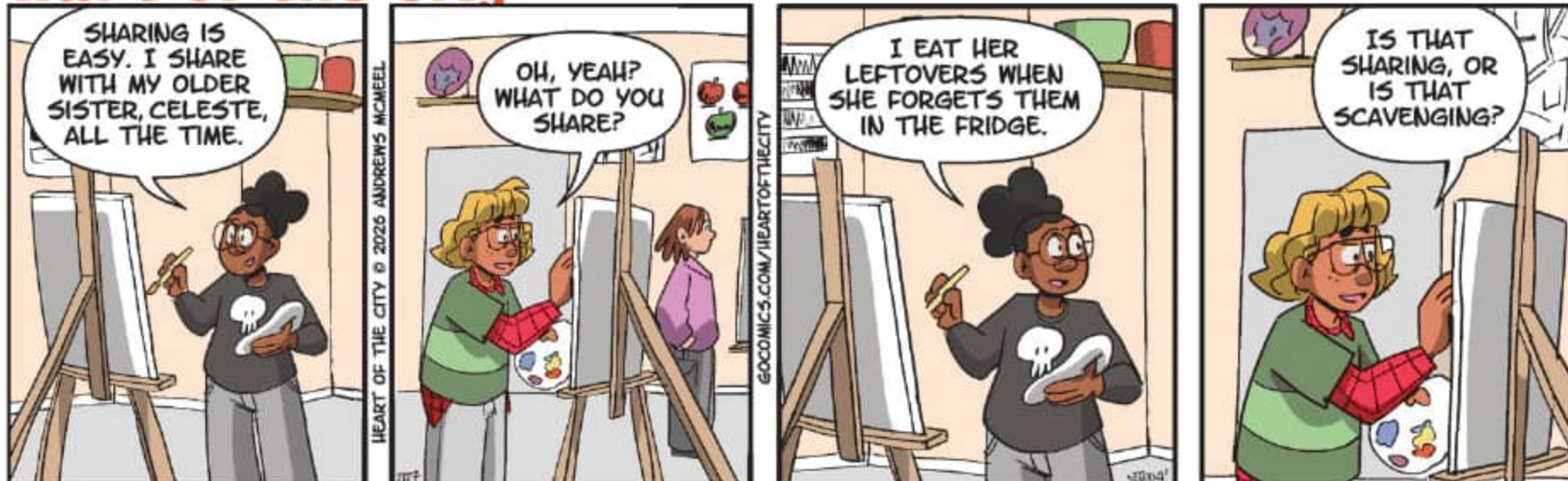
Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Deep introspection brings profound clarity regarding your long-term life purpose. At work, stepping back and delegating tasks will actually increase your overall productivity and earn respect. An old debt might be repaid to you unexpectedly, easing minor financial anxieties. Prioritize your mental health today by turning off your digital screens early and enjoying a peaceful, quiet evening.

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20



Career decisions and major responsibilities feel better postponed today while your focus shifts elsewhere. Handle smaller tasks calmly and prioritise activities that genuinely interest you. Mental relaxation helps restore creativity, balance, and motivation beautifully now.

Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23



Progress may feel slow today, but meaningful results are developing steadily behind the scenes. Stay patient and continue putting consistent effort into your goals. Recognition and appreciation arrive eventually, even if delayed temporarily now.

Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22



Volunteering for extra responsibilities today could unexpectedly benefit your career growth significantly. Your willingness to contribute sincerely impresses important people around you. Hidden talents and leadership qualities become more visible through your enthusiastic involvement now.

Taurus Apr 21 - May 20



Your work requires extra dedication and precision today, though your efforts will absolutely stand out positively. Paying attention to details carefully strengthens your reputation and brings appreciation from those who genuinely value your exceptional skills.

Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23



Self-doubt may appear today despite all the progress you've already achieved successfully. Remember that your efforts are deeply appreciated by others, even quietly. Trust your abilities more and allow confidence to replace unnecessary insecurity.

Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20



Creative ideas and valuable solutions flow strongly today, though someone may attempt overshadowing your contributions. Stay confident and ensure your hard work receives proper recognition. Speaking up professionally helps protect your progress and reputation beautifully.

Gemini May 21 - Jun 21



Leadership becomes more effective today through kindness, teamwork, and approachability rather than authority alone. Building stronger connections with colleagues improves collaboration naturally. Supporting others warmly creates a healthier environment where everyone performs more confidently together.

Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22



Your enthusiasm and positivity inspire everyone around you today, making your influence especially powerful. Others naturally trust your guidance and energy. Lead thoughtfully, encourage teamwork, and continue spreading optimism wherever you go professionally now.

Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19



Workplace drama may surround you today, though staying neutral protects your peace and professionalism. Focus carefully on your own responsibilities instead of getting involved unnecessarily. Calm boundaries help you avoid complications and maintain steady progress.

Cancer Jun 22 - July 23



An exciting leadership opportunity may appear today, encouraging tremendous personal and professional growth. Although responsibility feels intimidating initially, trust your abilities fully. Embracing this role confidently helps you discover strengths you never recognized before.

Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22



Teamwork becomes especially important today, placing you naturally in a leadership position. Bringing different personalities together successfully strengthens results and highlights your management skills beautifully. Your confidence and organization help everyone work harmoniously and efficiently.

Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20



Your disciplined and focused attitude stands out positively today, earning admiration from superiors and colleagues alike. Professionalism and consistency strengthen your reputation beautifully. Remaining organized and dependable could even open exciting opportunities for advancement soon.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



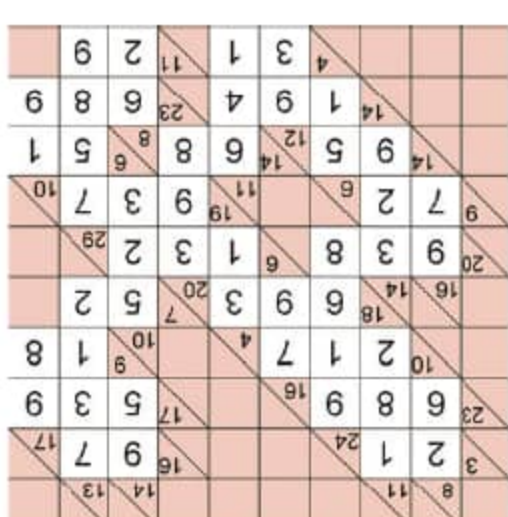
Darini A,
12 years,
Cathedral
High School



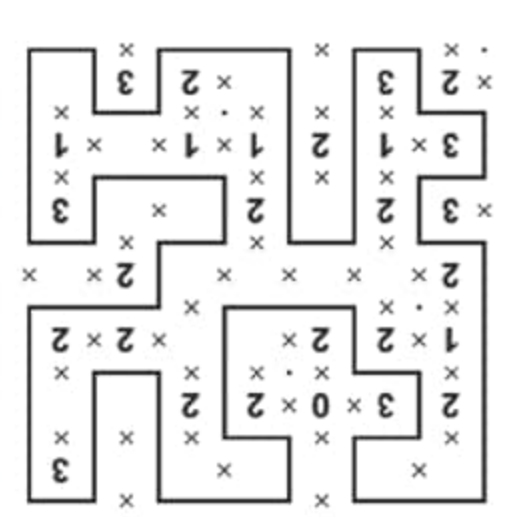
Karthikeyan A,
7 years,
Cathedral High
School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



MENZA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BULLS EYE



SOLVE IN 1M

Choosing her spotlight

Actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra opens up about being selective with film choices amid OTT boom

Shilpa Shetty Kundra recently offered a candid take on how the business of filmmaking has fundamentally changed. The actress spoke about her selective approach to work, her desire for a theatrical release and why she has no regrets about turning down big films.

'Producers don't want to take risks now'

In an interview with the Hindustan Times, Shilpa said, "The industry is going through a little bit of a lull also because they'd rather not take the onus or the risk and just do OTT. I don't blame them. The whole mathematics of making a film, the costing, all of that, has changed."

Why she is more selective about her projects

Having successfully balanced films, television and entrepreneurship over the years, Shilpa Shetty said that she has reached a point in her career where she is unwilling to settle. She said, "I don't want to compromise too much on what I want to do because I've been there, done that for a very long time. I want to justify it when I'm seen on screen."

During the conversation, she also talked about why she wants a big screen release. The actress said, "My children haven't seen me in a theatre. That's why I want to do a film that gets a theatrical release. My son watched 'Sukhee' in 2023, but it was in a preview theatre. I hope I get something that's like the films we used to make earlier."

Reflecting on her 2023 film 'Sukhee', the actress expressed disappointment over its limited theatrical run. She elaborated, "'Sukhee' released at a time when we didn't get enough theatres. It was such a disservice to the movie. But OTT is a great platform because people can discover a film at their own time."

On turning down big movies

Now hosting the cooking reality show 'Maa Hai Na', Shilpa Shetty stated that 2026 is shaping up to be a busy year professionally. She also addressed rumours and questions about projects she has declined, making it clear she stands firmly by every decision she has made. She said, "While I'm aiming for a theatrical release, the length of the role has never been the criteria for me. There have been instances where I've said no and my reasons were totally justified — they were mine. There are some very big films I've said no to, but that's between me and the producer. Why should I speak about it? I never ever regret my decisions." —ETimes



Emilia was 'absolutely livid' over Daenerys's death

British actress Emilia Clarke was fuming upon learning Daenerys Targaryen's fate in the fan-favourite series 'Game of Thrones'.

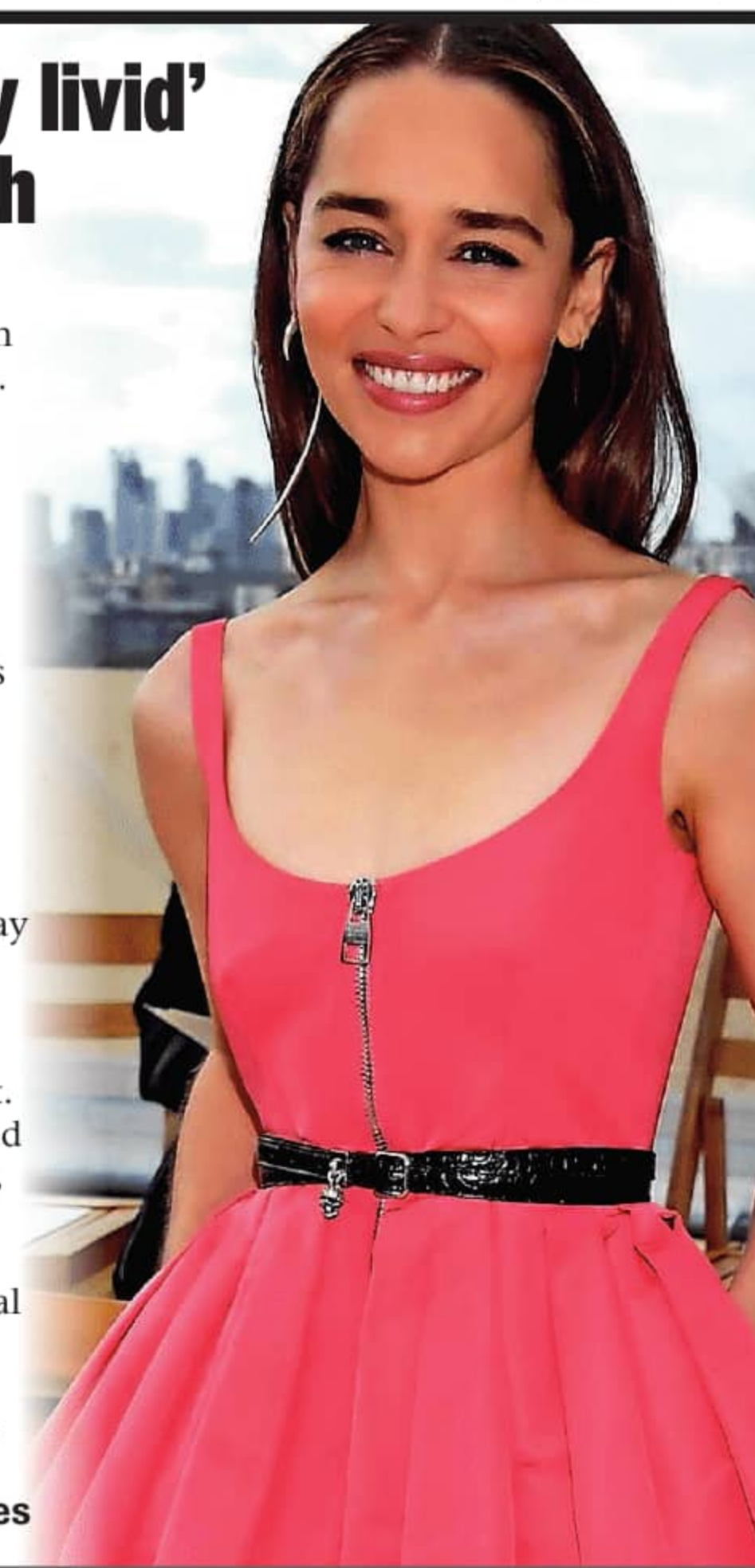
The actress recently recalled being "absolutely livid" when she was told about the same. The 39-year-old actress played the Mother of Dragons in the hit HBO fantasy series, between 2011 and 2019, reports 'Female First UK'.

She still feels "bummed" that her alter ego's love interest Jon Snow (played by Kit Harington) killed her in the final episode in a bid to protect the realm from her tyrannical ways. Emilia recalled Daenerys' last words to Jon were, "We break the wheel together."

She told 'Variety', "That is the last thing I say before the cheeky little s*** stabs me. F***** outrageous. I was so p*****. I was absolutely livid. Outside of the controversy around her actions, him killing me really bummed me out. Kinda rude. I gave that man everything, burned cities to the ground for him, for us. I'm over it, clearly. I'm so over it, it's unreal. Livid."

Emilia recalled how she spent hours in a "daze" after first reading the scripts for the final season and discovering Daenerys' final arc. As per 'Female First UK', the actress had an "existential crisis" after the show ended and it took her "years" to process the impact of the show.

— ETimes



'Alpha' teaser to drop on June 10

Alia Bhatt and Sharvari Wagh's 'Alpha' is one of the most awaited films of the year. Now, the teaser release date of the spy film is officially out. Makers are set to drop the first glimpse of the movie in the coming days.

The teaser of 'Alpha', starring Alia Bhatt and Sharvari Wagh, will be unveiled on June 10, 2026. The announcement has already generated considerable excitement online, with audiences eager to get their first proper look at the film. According to Pinkvilla, the promotional strategy for Alpha has been built around a sharp and distinctive idea. The report stated, "'Alpha' is not just a character or a film title; it is an attitude." Reportedly, the promotional campaign has been designed to connect with the youth of India. The source further described the campaign as fun, chill and "badass," promising an attitude-driven promotional run that is set to stand out from the crowd. 'Alpha' arrives at a critical juncture for the YRF Spy Universe, as the franchise's most recent outing, 'War 2', starring Hrithik Roshan, Jr NTR and Kiara Advani, failed to make a significant impact at the box office.

— ETimes



Title unveiled

The title and motion poster of Kannada movie Kshetrapala were unveiled at a hotel in Malleshwaram on Saturday. The first schedule of its shooting was held in



and around Kundapura for 10 days and a 40-day second schedule is expected to commence next month in Udupi and Kundapura.

Although the film is titled Kshetrapala, it does not focus on the deities of Coastal Karnataka. Instead, it tells the story of a man who protects his village, blending all the elements needed to entertain audiences on the big screen.

With this movie, Jagadeesh Manjanna, who has been associat-

ed with the media for more than 15 years, makes his debut as a director in Sandalwood. Raghava Poojari, who has played supportive characters in a few Kannada movies, makes his debut as a full-fledged hero.

It features Bala Rajwadi, Gopalakrishna Deshpande, Suchendra Prasad, Advika Shetty, Raghu Ramanakoppa, Gautami Gowda and Namita Kiran.

United through music

A group of emerging actors and technicians has released a music album titled Nammooru Nammavaru (My Native, My People), under the banners of Aroha Films and Aara Films. The project is supported by advocate and RTI activist Sandeep Patil from Hanagal. Released on June 5, the seven-minute album has already received positive feedback from music lovers.

The album portrays the struggles of hapless patients, job seekers and families living below the poverty line, highlighting how rampant



corruption, negligence and official apathy affect their lives. It underscores the need for new leadership to unite people against corrupt politicians and officials.

The team of Nammooru Nammavaru said that their objective is to create awareness among the public on the importance of fighting unit- edly against corruption and

injustice.

Tejas Kiran, who played the protagonist in Bhava Theera Yaana, Shashin R of Dance Karnataka Dance, Bhavani Purohit of tele serial Raghavendra Mahatme, Sandeep Rajagopal of Maggi Pustaka, actors Suneel, Arun, Murudayya and others acted in the music album. Mayur Ambekallu, known for scoring music for Kannada movies Bhava Theera Yaana and Pabbar, not only scored music but also sung the song. The music album was directed by Tejas Kiran and Mayur Ambekallu. Shivashankar Noorambada worked behind the camera.